

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
October 28, 2008

TCPL Board members present: Henrik Dullea, President; Eric Acree, Susan Currie, Nathan Fawcett, Mike Hall, Barbara Page, Rochelle Proujansky, Chris Sanchirico, Nancy Schuler, Michael Stamm, John Vineyard

Board members absent: Tom Colbert, Richard Driscoll, Marcy Rosenkrantz, David Weil

Also present: Janet Steiner, Director; Rosemarie Rice, Assistant Director; Jean Stewart, Library Secretary; Susan Smith Jablonski, Executive Director, TCPL Foundation; Sally Grubb, Development Associate, TCPL Foundation

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 08-133

The following additions were made to the Agenda: Add Action Item #5 - Ratification of PSA Contract, DOC 08-147; add the Executive Committee Minutes of October 24, 2008 as DOC 08-148.

With these changes **MOTION** was made by Schuler, seconded by Vineyard; approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFF PRESENTATION

Sally Grubb is the Development Associate for the TCPL Foundation. She is also the Exhibit Coordinator for the library. As the exhibit coordinator, she coordinates major art exhibits, books the exhibits, organizes and arranges displays, and recruits curators. The exhibits are displayed throughout the library: in Youth Services in the North Reading Room, on the folding wall, and along the Avenue of

the Friends. Sally has developed these exhibitions into a very important part of the programming here at the library.

The curators that Sally recruits have the responsibility of selecting the artists and displaying the artwork.

The goal of bringing high quality local art in all forms to the library is Sally's priority. She hopes to bring art that will make people think and question what they are looking at. The library has main art exhibits booked through 2010, which will give her time to work on the exhibit case displays. Dullea thanked Grubb for her presentation and asked what financial resources were used to cover the costs of the exhibits. Community Arts Partnership grants, with a library match, fund the curated programs but Sally volunteers over 100 hours a year to work on other exhibits and displays.

Fawcett commented that the exhibits bring a rich experience to the library. He asked Grubb how challenging was it to find curators. Sally said that it is a lot easier now than in the past. Artists used to show their exhibits at the library because of the library's reputation. Now, the library is desirable because it's a great space to have an exhibit. Steiner said that the exhibits remind her how important it is to be surrounded by beautiful art and also thanked Sally for her work.

### ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES DOC 08-13 The following modification was made to the minutes of the September 23, 2008 Board of Trustee meeting: Barbara Page was absent; Fawcett made the clarification that, in asking that the city be encouraged to enhance the aesthetics of the grounds, he was referring to the grounds located outside the Ezra Cornell Reading Room.

With these changes, **MOTION** to approve the minutes of September 23, 2008 was made by Page, seconded by Fawcett; approved unanimously.

Currie and Hall arrived at 4:55 p.m.

AUDIT OF BILLS DOC 08-135

**MOTION** by Fawcett, "I, Treasurer Nathan Fawcett, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed all vouchers presented for payment, and that all disbursements are within the approved operating budget of the library, and therefore recommend that the Board of Trustees approve for payment September 2008 bills in the amount of \$146,584.91, listed in Abstracts 30, 31, 32 and 33"; seconded by Page approved unanimously.

Fawcett commented \$20,550.98 total for the Books category. He spoke about the \$32,726.24 listed under Contractual Services - that includes Tech Services and FLLS and other routine expenses.

2008 BUDGET AMENDMENTS DOC 08-135

**MOTION** by Fawcett on behalf of the Finance and Personnel Committee to approve the Budget Amendments as listed in DOC 08-135; approved unanimously.

PROPOSED POLICY REGARDING HEALTH INSURANCE REBATES DOC 08-136

**MOTION** by Fawcett on behalf of the Finance and Personnel Committee to approve the Proposed Resolution re Health Insurance Rebates; approved unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF THE PSA CONTRACT DOC 08- 147

Proujansky extended thanks on behalf of the board members to Nathan Fawcett and David Weil for volunteering to participate in negotiations to pass the PSA contract. Fawcett thanked Steiner and Benjamin for all of their hard work.

The professional staff contract was ratified by the PSA on October 16, 2008. Fawcett described the changes in the contract: an increase in compensation: 2.9% in 2006, 3.0% in 2007, and 3.0% in 2008; changing the prescription co-pay from a two tier to a three tier system; choice of compensation for hours worked between 35 and 40; language adjustments concerning holidays; addition of "significant other" to the category of bereavement eligible relationships; defining language for

reimbursement amounts for conference attendance; changing the hearing body, and adding a mediation step to the grievance procedure.

**MOTION** by Fawcett on behalf of the Finance and Personnel Committee to ratify the 2006 - 2008 PSA Contract; approved unanimously.

### FOUNDATION REPORT

Suzanne Smith Jablonski reported that the Annual Appeal is underway. She is not yet sure what the effect the national economy will have on the Appeal. So far, she hasn't seen a decline in the amount of donor gifts. Smith Jablonski stated that the participation of the board members is critical. She asked that the board members make some type of personal contact with people on the donor list. She will send out a list of potential donors who have not been contacted yet.

The Foundation has received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the Triad Foundation for outreach to older adults. The Foundation plans to seek more funding for that program. Fawcett reported that Marcy is now on the Board of Directors for the Foundation.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Library Advisory Council Fall meeting was held October 24<sup>th</sup>. The council members were asked the question, "What can the library do to achieve a more effective working relationship with county legislators?" Steiner said that there were a lot of interested suggestions, which might make the basis of an action plan.

The Lansing Community Library has a new librarian. Her name is Susie Gutenburger. Unfortunately, there is a movement in Lansing to have the funding for the library revoked. There are now 6 libraries in Tompkins County, and Janet is planning a meeting of TCPL and the 5 rural libraries.

Janet has asked for a labor management meeting and is waiting to hear back from the union.

TCPL has been approached by two Cornell students working on projects: one is a study of the post-occupancy of the library and the other is about organizational change.

Several trustees attended a Staff Longevity Lunch held October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn. Janet has received many thank you notes from the honorees with comments that they enjoyed the luncheon.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Dullea commented on the status of Sunday funding. \$20,000 has been added to the county budget and the Town of Ithaca's budget. Steiner and Dullea will make a plea to the city. People are very supportive of supporting Sunday hours, but it's difficult to know how things will play out because of the state of the economy. Hall states that the affordability of the library is a plus because of the economy. Steiner mentioned that library usage has increased and thought an ad campaign for public awareness would be useful. The variety of things that are offered at the library needs repeating.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE - No report.

LIBRARY SERVICES - Proujansky announced that there will be a meeting of the committee on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Fawcett said all eyes are on the state budget cuts. Dullea commented that, historically, the county doesn't cut funding mid-year. Steiner reminded the board members that Finger Lakes Library System is 80% state funded, that they are very important to TCPL and state funding cuts may impact them.

Steiner said that the report from the Communications Committee is that some staff members are unsettled given the economy, and wondering if layoffs are

possible. She will discuss the issue at the next full staff meeting, which will be November 5<sup>th</sup>.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE** - Please Stamm reported that the committee met on October 28. There was discussion about ways to strengthen relationships with legislators, and how to strengthen relationships with the older adult population.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** - Did not meet.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** - President Dullea reported that the committee met on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Discussion focused on committee structure and how to adjust assignments in 2009. There is a possibility that the Long Range Planning Committee will be on hiatus. He welcomes comments from board members.

#### LIAISON REPORTS

Fawcett announced that October 28<sup>th</sup> is the last day of the Fall Book Sale. There haven't been any tallies yet, but it is projected that customer traffic was better than last year. He will share final totals when they come in. Dullea extended thanks to Marcy Rosenkrantz and to all the board members who participated. Vineyard commented that the sale was very well run.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION** by Fawcett, seconded by Acree to adjourn; approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

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Recorded by Jean Stewart  
Library Secretary

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Endorsed by Thomas Colbert  
Secretary of the Board